IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 6 and 7 without prejudice and amend Claims 1, 14, 23, 24 and 27 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A damping device for movable furniture parts, comprising a plunger (3) which is slidably guided in a hollow body (4), with said plunger (3) being impinged upon by a compression spring (8) into its pushed-out position,

wherein

the hollow body (4) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (5) of an internal screw thread and the plunger (3) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (6) of an external screw thread;

the stays (5, 6) of the screw threads are glidingly supported one on top of the other, ~~or cams (31) or journals of the hollow body (30) or of the plunger are supported on a screw-thread section (34) of the other components (33)~~;

pitch of the stays (5,6) of the screw threads is greater than pitch at which self-locking occurs; and

an intermediary piece (11) separated from the plunger (3) and having a face resting against a separate face of said plunger (3), is arranged to be slidably or rotatably guided in the hollow body (4) directly adjacent to an inner surface of said hollow body (4) between the compression spring (8) and plunger (3).

Claim 2. Canceled.

3. (Previously Presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein said intermediary piece (11) is nonrotatably connected to said compression spring (8).

4. (Previously Presented) The damping device according to claim 3, wherein the intermediary piece (11) comprises a roughened face which is supported by the plunger (3).

5. (Previously Presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein the compression spring (8) is non-rotatably held on a cover (7) which forms the bottom of a cylinder forming said hollow body (4).

Claims 6-12. Canceled

13. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein a high-viscosity grease is applied to surfaces of the components of the spiral-shaped screw-thread stays of the damping device which surfaces glide on each other, and/or to the flanks of said spiral-shaped screw-thread stays.

14. (Currently Amended) A damping device for movable furniture parts, comprising a plunger (3) which is slidably guided in a hollow body (4), with said plunger (3) being impinged upon by a compression spring (8) into its pushed-out position, wherein the hollow body (4) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (5) of an internal screw thread and the plunger (3) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (6) of an external screw thread;

the stays (5,6) of the screw threads are glidingly supported one on top of the other; ~~or cams (31) or journals of the hollow body (30) or of the plunger (3) are supported on a screw-thread section (34) of the other components (33);~~

pitch of the stays (5,6) of the screw threads is greater than pitch at which self-locking occurs;

an intermediary piece (11) is in contact with the plunger (3) and arranged to be slidably or rotatably guided in the hollow body (4) between the compression spring (8) and plunger (3); and

caps made of elastomeric material are placed onto the impact-absorbing plungers or cylinders.

15. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 14, wherein the caps are rotatably connected to the plungers or cylinders.

16. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein said damping device is inserted in a pot (20) of a hinge or is constructed in one piece with said pot (20) of the hinge, such that during the closing movement, the plunger (3) or cylinder comes to rest against a hinge arm or a swinging arm (22) of the hinge.

Claims 17-22. Canceled

23. (Currently Amended) A damping device for movable furniture parts, comprising a plunger (3) which is slidably guided in a hollow body (4), with said plunger (3) being impinged upon by spring force (8) into its pushed-out position, wherein

the hollow body (4) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (5) of an internal screw thread and the plunger (3) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (6) of an external screw thread;

the stays (5, 6) of the screw threads are glidingly supported one on top of the other~~; or cams (31) or journals of the hollow body (30) or plunger are supported on a screw-thread section (34) of the other components (33)~~;

the pitch of the stays of the screw thread is greater than the pitch at which self-locking occurs; and

an intermediary piece (11) separated from the plunger (3) and having a face resting against a separate face of said plunger (3), is arranged between the plunger (3) and a compression spring (8) to be in contact with the compression spring (8) and directly adjacent to an inner surface of said hollow body (4).

24. (Currently Amended) A damping device for movable furniture parts, comprising

a plunger (3) which is slidably guided in a hollow body (4), with said plunger (3) being impinged upon by spring force (8) into its pushed-out position, wherein

the hollow body (4) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (5) of an internal screw thread and the plunger (3) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (6) of an external screw thread;

the stays (5,6) of the screw threads are glidingly supported one on top of the other;

~~or cams (31) or journals of the hollow body (30) or plunger are supported on a screw-thread section (34) of the other components (33);~~

the pitch of the stays of the screw thread is greater than the pitch at which self-locking occurs;

an intermediary piece (11) is arranged between and in contact with a compression spring (8) and the plunger (3); and

said intermediary piece (11) is constituted by a stud (11) separate from said plunger (3), said stud (11) having a reduced diameter portion non-rotatably retained by an end of said compression spring (8) and an increased diameter portion resting against said plunger (3).

25. (Previously Presented) The damping device according to claim 24, wherein a face of said stud (11) contacting said plunger (3) is roughened to increase frictional contact with a corresponding planar face of said plunger (3).

26. (Previously Presented) The damping device according to claim 24, additionally comprising a cover (7) forming a bottom of the cylinder and comprising a step (12) arranged to non-rotatably support an end of said spring (8) opposite said stud (11).

27. (Currently Amended) A damping device for movable furniture parts, comprising

a plunger (3) which is slidably guided in a hollow body (4), with said plunger (3) being impinged upon by a compression spring (8) into its pushed-out position, wherein

the hollow body (4) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (5) of an

internal screw thread and the plunger (3) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (6) of an external screw thread;

the stays (5,6) of the screw threads are glidingly supported one on top of the other; ~~or cams (31) or journals of the hollow body (30) or of the plunger (3) are supported on a screw-thread section (34) of the other components (33);~~

pitch of the stays (5,6) of the screw threads is greater than pitch at which self-locking occurs;

an intermediary piece (11) is in contact with the plunger (3) and arranged to be slidably or rotatably guided in the hollow body (4) between the compression spring (8) and plunger (3); and

said intermediary piece (11) is constituted by a stud (11) separate from said plunger (3), said stud (11) having a reduced diameter portion non-rotatably retained by an end of said compression spring (8) and an increased diameter portion resting against said plunger (3).

28. (Previously Presented) The damping device according to claim 27, wherein a face of said stud (11) contacting said plunger (3) is roughened to increase frictional contact with a corresponding planar face of said plunger (3).

29. (Previously Presented) The damping device according to claim 27, additionally comprising a cover (7) forming a bottom of the cylinder and comprising a step (12) arranged to non-rotatably support an end of said spring (8) opposite said stud (11).

30.(Previously Presented) The damping device according to claim 16, inserted in a middle plane of the hinge pot (20).